

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Date for High School Commencement Fixed—Additional Money from the State Received for Manual Training—Corps of Teachers Engaged for the Year.

The Board of Education held an important meeting on Wednesday night at which a number of school matters were discussed. Arrangements were made for holding the High School commencement exercises in the First Presbyterian Church on Friday evening, June 26.

The Teachers' Committee reported the engagement of the following corps of teachers for the year:

High School—Miss Ella L. Draper, Belle L. Merchant, Elizabeth H. Wyman, Freda Van Benschoten, George C. Chaney, Berkeley School—Minnie F. Martin, Harold H. Phillips, Cornelia Corbin, Theresa Gallagher, Elizabeth A. Fallon, Sarah S. Boyce, Blanche H. Crane, Mary A. Myrick, Gertrude Diehlendorf, School No. 3, Broad side—Arvilla Martin, F. W. Long, Anna P. Thomas, Sarah E. Montford, Edith L. Orchard, Jane C. Gillies, Horatio Teal, Edith E. Walker.

School No. 4, Centre—Miss Mary Draper, Lizzie Otis, Mary Scott, Grace E. Clement, Ruth Thomas, Ida K. Brook, Anna G. Lowe, Thelma J. DeLoke, Helen D. Brown, Ethel E. Poland, Anna S. Agner, Stone House Plains, No. 5—Mrs. Mary L. Lickwood and Alice Gulick, Fairview No. 7—Miss Ida E. Robinson, William E. Ross, Lillian M. Galloway, Dorothy M. Horraz, Marion E. Field, Watsessing No. 8—Thomas Agnew, Jr., Helen E. Oatis, Carrie Swartwout, Stella Scheuniger, Gertrude E. Winter, Hattie L. Ferguson, Eugenia B. Watson, M. Estelle Dodd.

The following supervisors were reappointed: Peter J. Smith, Anna P. Carson, Alice H. Locke, Mabel Freeman, W. D. Anderson, Grace E. Jones and Amos Chamberlain.

Teachers to fill vacancies were named as follows: Howard Maude, E. Gay, Susan Osborne, Mary L. Martin and Rose E. Bouquet. The following resignations were accepted: Clarence Perkins, teacher of history in High School, who will pursue post graduate studies; Miss Helen I. Briggs and Emma J. Chase of Fairview School; Miss Anna S. Cadmus of Brookside, and Miss Jessie B. Pierson of Centre School. All of the reappointments were made upon the old schedule of salaries.

The Clerk of the Board reported having received an additional \$1,000 from the State for manual training, making \$2,500 now available for that purpose for the current year. The contract for furnishing 600 tons of coal to the schools was awarded to Ogden & Cadmus.

The Water Contract.

It has been asserted from time to time that according to the terms of the contract between this town and the Orange Water Company that provision is made for the purchase of the plant by the town by appraisal methods in case the contracting parties could not mutually agree upon terms. The contention is a mistaken one. There is no such provision appended to the contract, but not a particle of it, is a brief note not officially signed which reads as follows:

James C. Beach, Esq., Chairman of the Town Board.

DEAR SIR: Referring to our interviews with the water committee we hereby assure you and your successors in office that we will not sell our plant in Bloomfield during the continuance of the new contract without first offering it to the township at the same price we name to other parties.

To Fire Plans.

The Fire Committee of the Town Council was authorized on Monday night to expend not more than \$200 in procuring plans and specifications with approximate estimates for a new fire house for Essex Truck Company and Francis H. Co. The committee will have Architect John F. Capen prepare the plans.

Public Meeting

HELD IN LIBERTY STREET SCHOOL HALL LAST NIGHT

TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF A LOCAL WATER SUPPLY.

Pro and Con Opinions on Municipal Ownership—A Variety of Schemes for Obtaining Water Proposed—A Committee of Fifteen Appointed.

The first public assemblage of the citizens of this place for the discussion of public matters since the town act was adopted, took place last night in Liberty Street school hall. The water supply question was the subject that the people were called together by request of the Town Council to discuss.

George Peterson, chairman of the Town Council, called the meeting to order and made a statement showing the present status of the water question. About one hundred and fifty people were present when the meeting was called to order. The Hon. H. Ward was elected permanent chairman, and Samuel G. Hayter Secretary.

Dr. W. F. Harrison, Chairman of the Water Committee, followed Mr. Peterson and advocated town ownership of the water mains as the best solution of the water question. Dr. Harrison strongly opposed permitting the East Jersey Water Company to get possession of the plant, and his strongest argument against such an outcome was based upon sanitary reasons. He claimed that the trend of events in all municipalities was toward municipal control of public utilities, especially water and light. He also claimed that municipal ownership of the plant could be economically conducted and money saved to the taxpayers.

Dr. Harrison read extracts from the Madison, Morris county, report showing cost of operating a water and light plant there, and the receipts therefrom. He also read extensively from the report on Municipal Ownership presented to the city council of Summit by a committee appointed to investigate the subject.

After Dr. Harrison concluded the meeting was thrown open for remarks.

Mr. Scheffler, of Glen Ridge, asked what rate Madison charged. The committee was unable to answer.

Charles Vogelius wanted to know about the possible revenue from a town plant. Dr. Harrison gave statistics showing the possible benefits.

In reply to inquiries about condition of the pipes in the ground and a well preserved specimen of a fragment of 12 inch pipe that had been in the ground twenty-two years was exhibited.

W. E. Chancellor moved that the chairman of the meeting be authorized to appoint a committee of fifteen citizens, seven of whom shall be members of the Council.

Mr. Barrett requested that Mr. Ward should act as one of that committee. Mr. Chancellor's motion was heartily seconded.

Mr. Moore said that it did as the company proposed to sell its franchise.

Mr. Barrett made a speech against the "now or never" policy. Mr. Barrett was sure that the water company would deal fairly with Bloomfield. He spoke of the action of the Orange Water Company in taking East Orange 1 1/2 per cent. bonds in payment for the water plant. I don't think that we will have to accept this offer before the first day of July or go dry.

Mr. Moore said that his intention was to demonstrate to the water company that the town meant to take action and with Mr. Barrett's help we can no doubt get an extension of time.

Mr. White suggested that the Council and Committee investigate the South Norwalk, Conn., water and light plant.

Samuel Ellor cited the case of Hackensacktown, where a municipal plant is in successful operation and for \$12.50 per year furnished water for every purpose.

Attorney Halpenny spoke on the legal procedure of holding an election and issuing bonds. The Orange Water Company, Mr. Halpenny said, had a perpetual charter.

Joseph R. Maxfield asked if the Council had obtained any figures as to cost of a pumping plant. Dr. Harrison replied, \$60,000.

In addition to the members of the Council Chairman Ward named the following citizens as members of the Committee of Fifteen:

James C. Beach, Dr. G. Garabrant, Dr. Charles H. Bailey, Thomas Oakes, John A. Lawrence, Thomas McGowan, G. Lee Stout and Theodore H. Ward.

The committee will meet in the Council rooms next Tuesday night.

The following is a full text of the resolution offered by Mr. Chancellor:

Resolved, that the chairman of the meeting be instructed to appoint a committee of fifteen citizens, seven of whom shall be members of the Town Council,

to take into immediate consideration a plan for supplying Bloomfield with water and to report to a public meeting to be called as early as practicable, and that the chairman of the meeting be one of the members of the committee.

Halsey M. Barrett said that the Orange Water Company will sell its plant to the town on favorable terms owing to existing conditions, and he heartily seconded Mr. Chancellor's resolution.

Samuel G. Hayter read extracts from a newspaper eulogizing the Madison system.

Chairman Peterson said that the town has an option on the Orange plant extending to June 25th, but he had no doubt when the Orange Water Company learned that a committee was appointed to take action the time would be extended. Mr. Peterson called attention to the fact that the whole matter must go to an election by the people.

Samuel Ellor asked if there had been any trouble with broken pipes. Dr. Harrison said there had not, and Mr. Ellor thought that such a condition of affairs spoke well for the condition of the plant.

Councilman Moore explained to the meeting the apparent seeming haste on the part of the Council in acting in the matter; partly due to the fact that the existing contract expired on July 1st.

Mr. Moore portrayed the condition that would exist if the town failed to purchase the plant. One thing would be that some corporation would get the plant and control it in perpetuity. Many things tended to show that the town would be absolutely helpless as to control of supply and price of water.

Mr. Moore showed where town ownership would effect a saving in the matter of hydrants for fire purposes and in the matter of supply for domestic source a saving could be effected. Mr. Moore's opinion was that there is nothing else to do but for the town to take the matter up at once and take prompt action. He would like to have the committee to be appointed by the Chairman to meet before Monday night. Unless the town owns the mains the people could not get Newark water even if annexed to that city. Newark cannot furnish us with water now because of restrictions imposed on the city by the East Jersey Water Company.

Mr. Barrett called Mr. Moore's attention to the statute under which Bloomfield could condemn the plant. Mr. Moore said he was aware of the fact. "Then why," said Mr. Barrett, "do you insist on us having to pay the company's price?"

Mr. Moore quoted the East Orange proceedings as his reason.

Mr. Barrett said the value of the franchise was a factor then, but if the company is going out of business no franchise value enters into the case in this town.

Inspected Filtering Plant.

A number of physicians and members of the Boards of Health of Newark and neighboring cities visited Little Falls on Thursday afternoon at the invitation of Dr. J. L. Leal, the bacteriologist of the East Jersey Water Company, to inspect the filtration plant of the company erected at Little Falls, and in connection with the water supply system there. The members of the Newark Board of Health were invited to go with the party, but they were unable to accept.

Dr. Leal acted as host and entertained the visitors. There were about seventy in the party. An inspection of the works was made and the filtration plant subjected to a close scrutiny. The plant is one of the largest and most complete in the world. There are a number of novel features, and some that, while experimental in the beginning, have proven very satisfactory since the plant has been in use. The visitors were entertained at lunch during their stay.

TOWN COUNCIL

Gave Special Consideration to the Water Question Monday Night—Sentiment in Favor of Town Ownership of Mains.

The Town Council held an adjourned meeting Monday night for the special purpose of considering the water supply question. Several members of the Council favored calling in a number of citizens at a future meeting in order to ascertain public sentiment on the issue involved. It was finally decided to hold a public meeting, and on suggestion of Councilman Conlan it was resolved to hold the meeting in Liberty Street School hall, Friday evening, May 29, was fixed as the date.

The discussion of the question before the meeting was opened by Dr. W. F. Harrison, Chairman of the Water Committee, who said that the time had come when action must be taken in regard to the water supply. The Orange Water Company, Dr. Harrison said, was going out of business and was going to sell its plant and business rights in this town. The company, he said, had offered the town the first chance as a prospective purchaser, and had given the town an option extending until June 25, and the price asked was \$150,000. Among the competitors for the plant in the event of the town not securing it Dr. Harrison named the East Jersey Water Company, the West Summit Water Company, and a corporation that was being organized for the purpose of purchase. With respect to the source of supply of the respective competitors for the plant, Dr. Harrison said that the only known one was that of the East Jersey Water Company, which would furnish Passaic River water from the filtering plant at Little Falls. Dr. Harrison said he was personally strongly opposed to that source of supply. While it was possible to clear the water of inorganic matter by filtration, it was not possible to rid it of organic matter, such as the germs of typhoid fever and other diseases, and serious consequences would arise from an epidemic of fever or other diseases attributable to the water supply.

Dr. Harrison described the condition of the Passaic and its tributaries from which the East Jersey Company drew its supply, and told of many dangerous sources of pollution that had come under his own observation. Dr. Harrison was of the opinion that the members of the Council and the people should do all in their power to prevent the East Jersey Water Company from obtaining control of the water supply of this town, and the most effectual way to do so was for the town to secure control of the mains in the streets. The first step, in his opinion, was to get control of the mains and then deal separately with the question of a supply of water. The Chairman of the Water Committee and Chairman Peterson of the Council submitted the official offer to sell on the part of the water company, and a detailed statement of the extent of the company's plant in the town. These will both be found in full in another part of this paper.

Councilman Walker asked the Water Committee if it was possible to obtain a supply of water from artesian wells. He cited one notable instance of disastrous failure in that direction.

Councilman Farrand, in reply to Mr. Walker, submitted data of about ninety artesian wells now in successful operation in various places. Mr. Farrand favored experimental work in the town with a view to ascertaining what the possibilities were of obtaining a home supply of water, and he advocated the employment of an expert hydraulic engineer for that purpose.

Councilman Moore said if it was possible for a private company to sell water to the town at the rate of seventy-five dollars per million gallons and make a profit out of the business, it ought to be possible for the town to do the same thing and thus save the amount of the profit to the people. He was of the opinion that the town could conduct a water department as economically as a private corporation could conduct it. If expert opinion pronounced the mains of the Orange Water Company in the streets of this town to be all right "we ought," said Mr. Moore, "to purchase the plant." Larger mains, he said, could be put down from time to time when the demand for water necessitated it.

Dr. Harrison in reply to an inquiry said that estimates of the cost of duplicating the Orange Water Company's plant here were furnished by disinterested parties, and the figures given were between \$170,000 and \$180,000.

Chairman Peterson said that in the event of the town purchasing the water company's plant the company would continue to supply water at the present rates until such time as the town could make other arrangements for a supply.

EAGLE ROCK WATER CO.

Makes a Proposition to Supply the Town with Water—Owns Property in This Town and Glen Ridge—Price Now Asked for Water May be Reduced.

The Town Council through its Water Committee is collecting all the data possible with regard to a water supply, and is soliciting opinions, suggestions, and bids from all sources in order to place before the people all the possibilities for obtaining water. Among the several propositions received is one from the Eagle Rock Water Company, which is as follows:

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., May 23, 1903.
Dr. W. F. Harrison, Chairman Water Committee, Bloomfield Town Council, Bloomfield, N. J.

DEAR SIR: In accord with our conference and other conversations, we beg leave to submit to your committee the following offer:

We will supply Bloomfield with water at the required pressure for fire purposes from our proposed source of supply on Midland Avenue, Glen Ridge, with a guaranteed capacity of two million gallons per day at a flat rate of \$75 per million gallons, giving in our contract an option on our plant at an upset price, effective upon the expiration of the contract. We would respectfully call attention to particular to the following points in favor of our supply:

First: Our water is as pure as the Great Bear Spring water and perfectly soft. There is on file with the Town Clerk an official analysis made about two and one-half years ago by Mr. Heber Baldwin, which will bear out this statement. We claim it is perfectly soft because the hardness observed in the analysis was temporary, and due to the extreme cold weather.

Second: Our water comes from a deep water zone which renders it purer, freer from danger of contamination, and its flow more constant and plentiful (owing to the greater catchment area) than in most artesian supplies.

Third: Our property is divided almost equally between Glen Ridge and Bloomfield, and this would enable us to locate our plant in Bloomfield. We submit further that our plant at present call for a very elaborate, up-to-date plant, consisting of the air lift system of well pumping, and a very large stand pipe with low duty pumps. Recently we have been considering a less elaborate, and we believe a less expensive plant, perhaps fully as serviceable, but hardly as efficient, the direct pumping from the wells into the mains by means of a duplex high-duty system, such as the Orange Water Company uses. Owing to the absence in Cuba of our consulting engineer, Mr. Charles D. Pierce, we have not been able to get plans and cost figures on such a plant, but we expect to on his return next week. Should our expectations be realized, we shall be able to submit a lower price in about two weeks time.

Lastly, we beg leave to submit the following offer: Should our proposition at any time be considered favorably and the acceptance of it hinge only on the question of the quantity of the supply, we will stand the expense of an investigation of it by any engineer your committee will name.

Respectfully submitted,

THE EAGLE ROCK WATER COMPANY,

GODLOVE C. SEIBERT, Pres.

The Eagle Rock Water Company has in its organization some Bloomfield and Glen Ridge people. Godlove C. Seibert is the President; Robert P. Maplet, Vice-President; John S. Melchers, Consulting Engineer; John Moult, Secretary; J. S. Jarvis, Jr., Treasurer. The company is capitalized at \$150,000.

The Consumption of Water.

It was stated at the Town Council meeting Monday night that the consumption of water in this town in the course of a year was about 350,000,000 gallons. At a cost of sixty dollars per million gallons it would require \$21,000 to pay for water. President William Cardwell of East Orange City Council was quoted as saying that municipal ownership could not be made to pay at the rate of eighty dollars per million gallons. Chairman Peterson said that it cost the Orange Water Company about \$30 per million gallons for pumping and distributing water from its Grove Street wells.

